

HONORING SIEGEL HIGH SCHOOL'S LADY STARS FOR WINNING THE CLASS AAA STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Siegel High School Lady Stars soccer team for winning the Class AAA state soccer championship.

The victory marks the first time in school history that the Lady Stars won the state soccer championship. In each of the four previous years, they competed in the state championship tournament, making it as far as the semifinals twice. This year, The Tennessean picked Franklin High School as the favorite to win the tournament, which also included Brentwood High School and Collierville High School.

However, in the end, the Siegel Lady Stars beat the Brentwood Lady Bruins 2-1. The 2008-09 girls soccer team is the third Siegel High School sports team to win a state title, joining the 2006 boys tennis and 2007 girls tennis squads.

I congratulate the Lady Stars and their support staff, which includes Kerbi Towry, Sarah Jameson, Stephanie Surgener, Caroline Elbaum, McKensie Gibson, Mercedes Llanos, Savannah Hawkins, Maggie Trollinger, Tawanna Myers, Tori Hawkins, Julie Brackin, Samantha Pewitt, Lauren Bennett, Taylor Eaton, Katie Copeland, Brandi Phillips, Kayla Ernst, Stephanie Parra, Kelsey Naish, Alison Ristvedt, Hayley Sloan, Caroline Gerhart, Kristina Davis, Sydney Eakes, Morgan Thompson, Briesi Davis, Cassidy Jagger, Kim Conrad, Araceli Vazques, Claire Stampely, Sydney Dewberry, Head Coach Eric Shelton, Assistant Clif Matlock, Assistant Adam Shelton, Athletic Director Alan Bush, and Principal Ken Nolan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY THROUGH RESPONSIBLE HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, the current economic crisis that we are facing as a nation has spread throughout many sectors and many industries. The banking industry has been crippled, credit markets have frozen and manufacturing capacity is shrinking. The worst job loss numbers in 34 years were just released last Friday, and the losses were widespread throughout every major industry.

But this crisis began with the housing industry, and it will not be fixed without addressing the root problem of excess supply that drives down prices. The lack of home buyers has caused the supply of unsold homes to increase rapidly. This not only causes blight in neighborhoods across the United States, but also places severe downward pressure on home values. Falling home prices are particularly detrimental to working American families, many of whom rely on their home as a financial investment to build long-term wealth.

As home prices fall, homeowners are faced with the reality of declining equity in their homes and many are finding their mortgage debt to be greater than the value of their home. Declining values and increased foreclosures create a vicious cycle. As more homes enter foreclosure, home values continue to decline, leading to yet more defaults and further declines in value. All of the ripple effects that we've seen throughout the economy, in the credit markets and beyond, stem from this core problem.

We also know that irresponsible actions on both Wall Street and Main Street contributed heavily to this current situation. We need a plan that addresses the core problems of the housing industry, providing an immediate stimulus to the economy, while rewarding responsible, working middle-class families who live within their means and make prudent financial decisions.

Today I am introducing a bill that will help to accomplish just that. This legislation offers a new tax credit for 2009 and 2010 for every home purchase made with a down payment of at least 10 percent. A home buyer making a down payment of 10 percent will receive a \$5000 tax credit. A home buyer making a down payment of 15 percent will receive a \$10,000 tax credit.

By linking the tax credit to down payments, this bill will encourage only responsible home ownership. And by incentivizing home buying, it addresses the oversupply of homes that is creating such strain on the broader U.S. economy.

Unlike the credit enacted by Congress this summer, which was offered only to first-time homebuyers, this credit would be available to anyone who is able to meet the down payment criteria set forth in the bill. This ensures that all working families, not just first-time buyers, are able to take advantage of the new credit.

Furthermore, this bill requires a significant down payment. We all know that irresponsible participants in our housing markets—individuals, banks and government-sponsored enterprises—took advantage of the system and helped to create our current crisis in the first place. That's why this bill encourages home buying that is based on sound financial planning.

I believe this plan will deliver quick relief by restoring our ailing housing industry. It enables responsible home buyers to jumpstart the industry, stop home prices from continuing to plummet and restore the communities that have been plagued by foreclosures. And because this new benefit will expire at the end of 2010, it will encourage quick action. Our challenges won't be solved overnight and there are no quick fixes. But we must take this expeditious and prudent step to put us back on the path to recovery.

BELLE GROVE PLANTATION LAND FUND CELEBRATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize that on November 1, 2008, the Board of Directors of Belle Grove Planta-

tion in Middletown, Virginia, celebrated the completion of a \$1 million campaign to purchase 183 acres of adjacent land. I was pleased to join in the celebration of this milestone which is an important step toward preserving an essential part of this historic landscape for future generations. The master of ceremonies was Belle Grove Board Member Ambassador James E. Nolan, Jr. During the program, held on the 1797 Manor House's front lawn, James R. Wilkins, Jr. presented the final \$10,000 gift for the campaign to Belle Grove's executive director, Elizabeth McClung.

The gift was a grant from the James R. Wilkins Foundation, which made the first major contribution to the campaign. The Wilkins family members are descendants of Jost Hite, the first recorded settler in the Shenandoah Valley. The land they helped preserve at Belle Grove was originally owned by Jost Hite in the 18th century. Major Isaac Hite, Jost's grandson, received this land in 1783 on his marriage to Nelly Madison, sister of President James Madison. Here they built their limestone Manor House in 1797, with design assistance from Thomas Jefferson. The plantation grew to 7,500 acres during Major Isaac Hite's lifetime. On October 19, 1864, Belle Grove was at the epicenter of the Civil War Battle of Belle Grove or Cedar Creek.

The newly-purchased 183 acres reclaims a portion of the original plantation and Civil War battlefield, and nearly triples the size of the historic site which has been open to the public since 1967. Belle Grove Plantation is both a Virginia and National Historic Landmark, is owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and is the centerpiece of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

The following major donors who made the land purchase possible were honored at the event, and a commemorative preservation plaque was dedicated: James R. Wilkins Foundation, Fred and Christine Andreae, Belle Grove, Inc., Byron and Kathleen Kanter Brill, County of Frederick, Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Thompson, The Beirne Carter Foundation, David and Barbara Came, Martha Cook, Nancy Larrick Crosby, Bob and Betty Edwards, Mary C. Ewing, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mary P. Robinson, Lilburn and Nancy St. Clair Talley, Kathryn Perry Werner, William and Elaine Brandt, Malcolm and Mildred Brumback, Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Byrd, III, Chemstone Corporation, The Robert Claytor Family, William H. and Jean G. Clement, Joy Holler Costello, Pat and Warren B. French, Jr., The Hite Family Association, Suzanne W. McKown, Charles J. Reeder, Donald and Madeline Stewart, and William S. and Elizabeth W. Talley.

HONORING PHIL FULMER'S TENURE AS UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE'S FOOTBALL COACH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Phil Fulmer for his impressive record as University of Tennessee's football coach. Coach Fulmer finished his career at UT with a record of 152-